

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2012 at 6:00pm

Attendees: Rick Amodei, Dave Moreau, Kevin Smith, Noreen Ma, Holly Mansfield

Guests: Dan Moseley

Mosquito: Katie Hart

Meeting began at 6:25pm

Approval of Minutes:

Kevin Smith made the motion to accept the minutes of April 23, 2012. Dave Moreau seconded the motion. All in favor.

Pump Replacement at Banta Davis:

Last week Holly received two invoices from Wilmington Pump Supply for the repair of the pump at the Banta Davis playing field. After reviewing the budget, there is not enough money in the Recreation operating budget to cover the entire cost of this repair.

Rick and Holly met with Larry Barton to discuss our options in resolving this matter. Larry suggested that we spend our operating budget down to zero and take the remaining balance from the small caps line item in the Town Administrator's budget.

The board was unaware of any issues with the pump until the invoice was received. A project this large should not have been authorized without the knowledge and approval of the Recreation Commission.

Dan Moseley was aware of an issue with the pump and asked Harvey Ross to take a look at the pump. Dan was not aware of the enormity of the problem and believed the cost to repair the pump was minimal. The board is unsure as to where the authorization came from to repair the pump.

It appears that this issue was a "snowball effect". No one was aware of the multiple problems with the pump until the first repair was initiated and additional issues were discovered. However, at this point the work should have been halted and the board informed of the needed repairs.

Rick plans to meet with Bob Duggan from Wilmington Pump Supply and Harvey Ross from Lawhorn Irrigation to discuss this matter in full detail and review the proper procedure when similar issues arise.

Rick believes we should follow Larry's recommendation to resolve the current invoice and spend our operating budget down to zero and take the remaining balance from the small caps line item from the Town Administrator's budget.

Field Maintenance:

Over the past few months, we have received complaints concerning the condition of the fields, specifically the infields. Dan is in agreement that the infields need work due to the overwhelming issue of weeds in the infield.

Due to the organic field maintenance plan, Dan is unable to use chemicals to control the weeds and is finding that every five days the weeds have grown back. In the past, Dan had used Round-Up to control the weeds but this treatment is no longer allowed.

Dan has projected that the infields will need 34 visits to maintain the infields properly from April through October. The small field is \$50/visit, Softball Field is \$75/visit and the 90ft Diamond is \$85/visit. This totals to \$335 for all five fields and at 34 visits, we would need a budget of approximately \$11,000 to maintain the infields. In the current contract only \$5,000 is allotted for infield maintenance.

When Dan first started, he had the help of his children and was doing much of the work at no charge to the town. However, he no longer has the assistance of his children. The piece of equipment needed to properly maintain the infields is approximately \$12-\$15,000 and numerous parts need replacement due to the normal wear and tear of the machine. Years ago, the 90ft Diamond was a grass infield with clay at the bases only.

Kevin states that the fields need to be a priority and the issue needs to be addressed. Various youth sport groups have donated a total of \$10,000 for the improvement of fields. To do a re-vitalization of the infields would cost approximately \$2700-\$2800.

Rick made the motion to use up to \$2800 from the gift account for the revitalization of all five playing fields. Dave seconded the motion. All in favor.

Dan will complete the 90ft Diamond and the Softball Field by the end of the weekend and will plan to have the other fields complete by the end of next week.

School Playground Equipment:

Due to the new construction at the school, the school has offered to give recreation two play structures that they will no longer be using. Noreen stated that the equipment is in good condition and if we are not interested in the equipment then the Red Balloon may be interested in taking the play structures.

The area next to the exercise stations at Banta Davis is a great location for this equipment. It will provide the children a place to play while siblings are participating in ball games.

We need a volunteer to spear head the project. Rick can assist with finding volunteers and equipment to move the play structures; however, we need someone to take on the entire project. Noreen will contact the Parents Connection and find someone that is willing to take on this project.

Rick made the motion to set aside \$500 out of the gift account for supplies needed to relocate the extra playground equipment to Banta Davis with the Parent's Connection initiating the overall project. Kevin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Diment Park:

There are a few minor repairs that could be made to the equipment as priority items. Dave will get this list of repairs to Dan.

We did receive a quote of \$4,000 for the rubber mulch material to put under the playground equipment. Dave will look into the cost of the regulation mulch and see if there is a cost difference. The benefit to the rubber mulch is longevity.

Dave will formulate a plan to prioritize safety items and the cost of each needed repair.

Re-Appointment of Members:

The appointments of Rick Amodei, Mark Spears and Dave Moreau are all up for renewal. All have agreed to serve another term on the Recreation Commission.

The motion was made to re-appoint Rick Amodei as the Chair for the next year. All in favor.

Appoint a Member to Town Government Study:

Rick offered to take on this position.

Five Year Plan:

Tabled until September meeting.

Banta Davis Housing Project:

Tabled until September meeting.

Other:

Dave Reed from Old Home Day requested to place a shed next to the current shed on Spalding Field. This does not interfere with mowing or the use of the field so the board agreed that this would not be an issue and the shed could be placed on Spalding Field.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 5th at 6:00pm. Please provide any ideas for the agenda. Currently on the agenda we have the following:

- 1) Approval of Minutes from 7/10/12 Meeting
- 2) Five Year Plan
- 3) Banta Davis Update
- 4) Diment Park Maintenance Plan

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm